



Seattle Police wearing masks - Spanish Flu Pandemic, 1918



Bellaire Police wearing masks – COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020

YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

BELLAIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT

5110 Jessamine St.
Bellaire, Texas 77401

VISION, MISSION, & VALUES	3
Vision	3
Mission	3
Values	3
Message from the Mayor	4
Letter from the Chief	5
DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW	7
Staffing	7
Budget	8
CRIME STATISTICS	10
Calls for Service	10
Arrests	10
Pursuits	11
Crashes	12
Response Times	13
Uniform Crime Reporting	14
National Incident Based Reporting System Conversion	15
SPOTLIGHT	17
Bellaire Home Burglaries 2020	17
False Alarm Reduction	19
Notifications	21
Crime Victim Specialist	22
DIVISIONS	23
Administration	23
Patrol	24
Patrol Supervisors	25
Animal Control	26
Support Services	27
Information Technology	28
PROGRAMS	29
Drones	29
Automatic License Plate Reader	29
Management Study	30
Police Service Delivery Improvements	31
MILESTONES	32
Promotions	32
Retirements	32
IN MEMORIAM	34

VISION, MISSION, & VALUES

Vision

As a premier law enforcement organization, the Bellaire Police Department's vision is for the City of Bellaire to be the safest community in the area by blending excellence in policing with community partnerships.

Mission

The dedicated professionals of The Bellaire Police Department, in cooperation with the citizens of Bellaire, shall strive to provide a secure and viable community through:

- The protection of the fundamental rights of all people;
- Open communication and alliance with citizens;
- The promotion of pride and trust through the continual performance of responsibility, honesty, integrity, and discipline;
- Active recruitment, development, and retention of quality personnel; and,
- Proactive innovation to anticipate and meet the challenge of our changing environment.

Values

Service - We provide quality service to all. We understand the expectations of us as professionals and accept those high standards in the delivery of services. We are accountable for our actions to ourselves as well as the community we serve. We recognize and accept the responsibility that comes with our authority as peace officers.

Honor - We will honor our community, our government, and our Department by our actions, reflecting strong character as well as practicing the values of our Department. We are honest and forthright in all our dealings. We are loyal to our community, our profession, our Department, and to ourselves. Our loyalty is for the greater good and not self-serving. We respect all persons and their rights.

Courage - We will act with courage in the face of danger. We will have courage in our decision making, ensuring that we act in an ethical manner with integrity and compassion.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Andrew S. Friedberg

Law enforcement is never easy. It takes a special kind of person to be willing to put oneself in harm's way for the protection of total strangers. Police officers must sometimes make split-second, life-or-death decisions, in unimaginably stressful situations and with much more to think about than just their own self-preservation instincts. And with the knowledge that whatever they do, they'll be judged after the fact by others who weren't even there.

Among the many challenges of 2020, law enforcement is once again under the microscope following a series of high-profile incidents that

have prompted a nationwide reckoning on issues of social justice and police reform. These are difficult and complex issues to be sure, with the public's trust hanging in the balance. Law enforcement is never easy.

"...the Bellaire Police Department does not shy away from these vexing problems but instead seeks to be part of the solution."

But the Bellaire Police Department does not shy away from these important conversations. Our officers and command staff are committed to continuous improvement and open-minded to better ways of doing things. They are willing partners with the community in working together toward positive change. When a group of Bellaire residents organized a peaceful Unity March last year, our police department not only provided security for the participants but joined in and marched alongside them. Far from being confrontational, it proved one of the highlights of the year.

The Department regularly reviews and updates its policies, and in 2019 completed a comprehensive rewrite of all of its general orders to ensure their alignment with recognized best practices. As discussed at page 30 of this Year In Review, beginning in 2020 and currently underway is a third-party management study, one of the expressed purposes of which is to "spur involvement with the national discussion on police reform." Again, the Bellaire Police Department does not shy away from these vexing problems but instead seeks to be part of the solution.

Bellaire residents have long enjoyed a special relationship with our police department, and our officers appreciate working in and for a community that values their service. They're pleased to share with you some of the highlights of their activities and accomplishments over the past year, and as always they welcome your questions, concerns, and feedback.

Andrew S. Friedberg
Mayor

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

I am pleased to present the Bellaire Police Department's 2020 Annual Report. Our Annual Report is intended to provide you information about what is going on in your Police Department. This is my last letter in an Annual Report. July 31st I will be retiring after 45 years of service to the City of Bellaire. There were a number of things I had hoped to discuss, but I think I will just go straight to the most important.



Chief Byron A. Hollow

During almost half a century of service, I think 2020 was the most challenging year for the Department. We started the year with the Covid virus that became a worldwide pandemic. Unlike flooding or a hurricane, the Covid pandemic was something that we hadn't experienced, hadn't trained for, and had limited resources to work with. Then later in the year George Floyd died while in custody of the Minneapolis Police Department. Video of Floyd's death shocked the senses as well as started a nation-wide discussion on police reform and accountability.



Chief Holloway - Circa 1980

We adapted our processes to provide police services in the age of Covid. We probably made some mistakes, but Department employees worked to provide police services while staying safe. This was often no easy task as sometimes policies and procedures would change twice during a single shift. We looked at our organization and found that we already had policies and practices in place to address concerns being raised nationwide on police reform.

We get up every day, come to work and do our best, someday we have great successes and some days we have

setbacks; we don't let the setbacks determine how we serve citizens. We acknowledge where we fell short, learn from our setbacks, and we move forward.

"We acknowledge where we fell short, learn from our setbacks, and we move forward."

The employees of the Bellaire Police Department are some of the finest in law enforcement. With that said, there is more to a safe viable city than just the Police Department. There are well maintained streets, good libraries, parks and recreational

opportunities, a responsive Fire Department, safe drinking water, and so much more. Also, there are engaged citizens and responsive elected officials. All of these are what makes the City of Bellaire the place that it is.

A good Police Department or good City government doesn't occur in a vacuum. Our success is in large part due to the support and guidance we receive from the community.



I will remember the year 2020 for many things, but what will always stand out to me is the support and compassion of the Bellaire community. I will remember the leadership of our elected officials and the teamwork displayed among all City Departments. And as always, the outstanding men and women of the Bellaire Police Department.

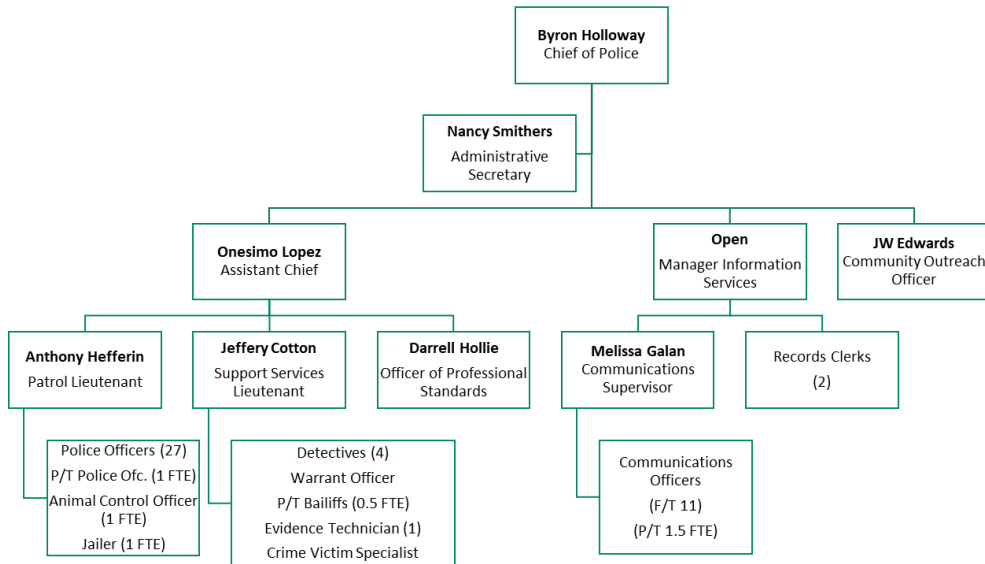
Thank you,

Byron A. Holloway
Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Staffing

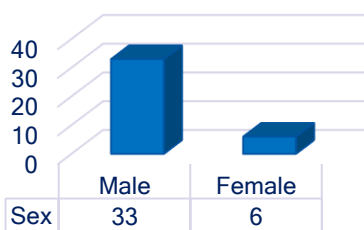
The Bellaire Police Department employs forty-two full- and part-time officers to serve a community of over 18,000 residents encompassing an area of 3.6 miles. In addition to sworn police officers, the department staff includes civilian Communications Officers, Records Clerks, a Crime Victim Specialist, an Evidence Technician, an Animal Control Officer, and an Administrative Assistant.



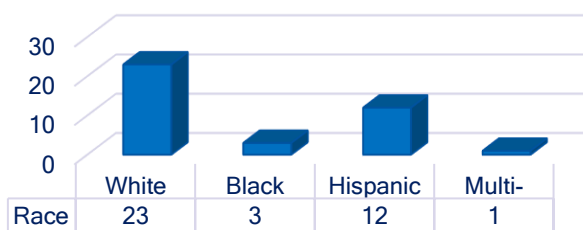
Staffing above shows the department at full capacity, no vacancies. Due to retirements, resignations, and difficulties in hiring qualified staff as of December 2020 there were several openings. These openings included four patrol officers, one bailiff, and one communications officer. Continuous hiring of communications staff as well as a police officer hiring event held in November 2020 should enable the department to realize full staffing in 2021.

Data below reflects staffing demographics as of January 1, 2020.

Sworn Officers by Sex



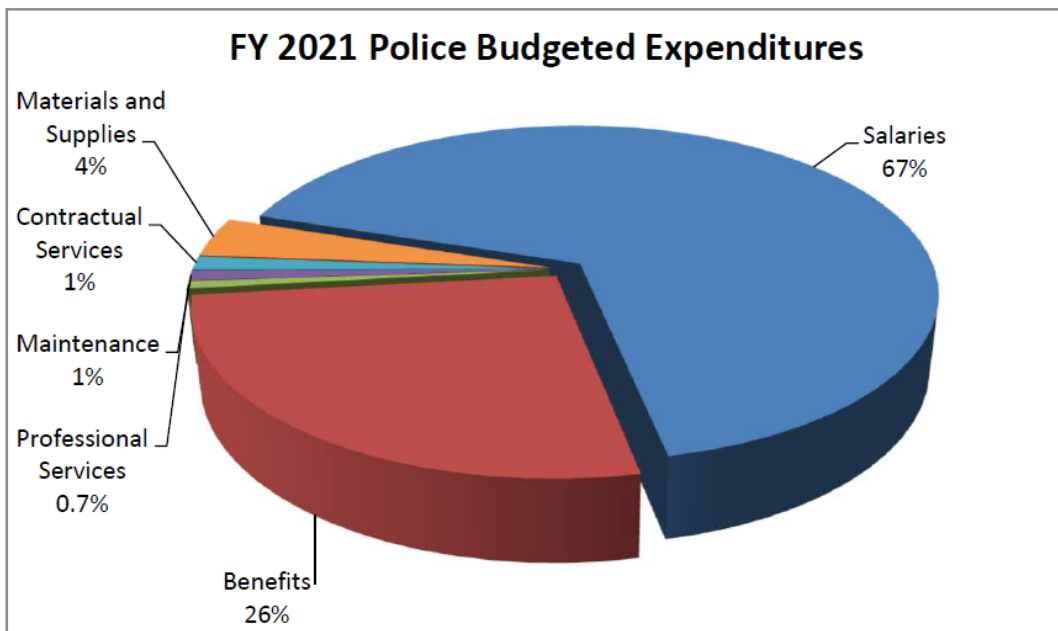
Sworn Officers Demographics



Budget

Expenditure Summary

	FY 2019 Actuals	FY 2020 Adopted	FY 2020 Projected	FY 2021 Proposed
Salaries	\$ 4,370,031	\$ 4,566,619	\$ 4,499,837	\$ 4,517,931
Benefits	1,636,148	1,725,220	1,696,505	1,787,865
Professional Services	10,379	22,950	20,950	47,890
Maintenance	74,710	68,820	68,820	67,488
Contractual Services	80,937	88,707	88,707	86,965
Materials and Supplies	250,160	270,376	259,876	255,911
Total Expenditures	\$ 6,422,364	\$ 6,742,692	\$ 6,634,695	\$ 6,764,050



Acct Code	Description	FY 2019 Actuals	FY 2020 Adopted	FY 2020 Projected	FY 2021 Proposed
Salaries					
100	Regular Employees	\$ 3,842,262	\$ 4,058,826	\$ 3,860,214	\$ 4,089,362
105	Incentive Pay	177,376	248,200	182,818	194,434
110	Part Time Employees	119,636	149,679	110,775	123,634
120	Overtime	193,256	70,000	268,070	70,000
130	Longevity	26,674	28,488	30,506	29,264
140	Sick Leave Buy Back	10,826	11,426	47,454	11,237
	Total Salaries	4,370,031	4,566,619	4,499,837	4,517,931

Acct Code	Description	FY 2019 Actuals	FY 2020 Adopted	FY 2020 Projected	FY 2021 Proposed
Benefits					
210	Group Health Insurance	546,299	608,505	586,063	666,982
211	Health Savings Account	22,750	26,000	19,175	23,400
215	Group Dental Insurance	11,005	10,582	10,619	10,910
217	Group Life Insurance	17,326	17,353	17,841	21,639
220	Disability Insurance	9,698	10,701	10,190	10,877
230	Medicare/Social Security	54,406	68,217	60,193	68,183
240	Retirement Contributions	880,798	904,148	902,536	898,524
260	Workers Compensation	93,866	79,714	89,888	87,350
	Total Benefits	1,636,148	1,725,220	1,696,505	1,787,865
Professional Services					
313	Employee Screening	-	3,000	3,000	2,940
324	Other Professional	10,379	19,950	17,950	44,950
	Total Professional Services	10,379	22,950	20,950	47,890
Maintenance					
411	Vehicle Maintenance	67,904	60,060	60,060	58,858
412	Communication Maintenance	2,290	2,500	2,500	2,450
413	Machinery and Equipment Maintenance	1,551	2,260	2,260	2,260
426	Firing Range Maintenance	1,287	1,500	1,500	1,470
461	Rental of Equipment	1,677	2,500	2,500	2,450
	Total Maintenance	74,710	68,820	68,820	67,488
Contractual Services					
520	Communications	5,311	6,720	6,720	6,720
522	Postage	1,231	1,000	1,000	980
550	Dues and Fees	2,037	5,202	6,202	5,097
551	Permits and Licenses	6,230	7,125	6,125	6,982
560	Travel Mileage Allowance	7,853	11,400	11,400	11,072
570	Education and Training	58,274	54,260	57,260	56,114
571	Tuition Reimbursement	-	3,000	-	-
	Total Contractual Services	80,937	88,707	88,707	86,965
Materials and Supplies					
600	Office Supplies	\$ 10,224	\$ 10,450	\$ 10,450	\$ 10,241
601	Information Technology Supplies	18,680	18,500	18,500	18,130
602	Small Tools and Minor Equipment	28,023	33,795	33,795	33,119
604	First Aid Supplies	316	500	500	490
605	Vehicle Supplies	1,775	2,000	2,000	1,960
606	Community Education Supplies	5,004	5,000	5,000	4,900
610	Operating Supplies	39,571	35,699	35,699	35,699
612	Chemicals	-	200	200	200
625	Fuel	80,330	98,240	88,240	86,500
650	Uniforms/Wearing Apparel	59,065	59,492	59,492	58,302
651	Prisoners Support	4,709	4,000	4,000	3,920
652	Dog Pound	2,463	2,500	2,000	2,450
	Total Materials and Supplies	250,160	270,376	259,876	255,911
Department Total		\$ 6,422,364	\$ 6,742,692	\$ 6,634,695	\$ 6,764,050

CRIME STATISTICS

Calls for Service

In calendar year 2020, the Bellaire Police Department logged 30,007 calls for service. Calls for service are phone calls placed to the Communications Division requesting services of public safety professionals to resolve, correct, or assist with a particular situation. The number includes Bellaire Fire and EMS calls for service.

Notably, the most frequently requested calls for service are those related to the housing and feeding of individuals held in the Bellaire City Jail. The second-most frequent call for service were traffic stops followed by commercial/residential alarms. The listing below only shows incidents for which there were 100 or more calls for service. These 41 categories accounted for 26,966 or approximately 89.9% of all calls for service.

CATEGORY	COUNT	CATEGORY	COUNT	CATEGORY	COUNT
Pris/CkCCTV	8895	Susp/Person	353	City Ord Vio	170
Traffic Stop	3882	Susp/Circum	319	Illegal Prkg	170
Alarm/Burgla	1371	Spec/Assign	312	Dist/Noise	165
Pris/Feed	1125	Supplement	306	MVA/Major	157
Spec/Patrol	1004	Assist/Agncy	299	Alarm/FireRe	148
MVA/Minor	793	Burg/Vehicle	284	Dist/General	145
DAV	730	Pris/Release	282	Shoplifting	128
Veh Maint	713	Pris/JailMnt	266	CrimTrespass	125
Pris/Check	590	Open Door	251	Speed/Rckls	116
WelfareCheck	519	Animal/Loose	220	Materials	108
TrafficAssgn	515	Pris/Trans	218	Alarm/FireCo	101
Animal/Pound	501	Obstruction	206	Assist/Citzn	100
Susp/Vehicle	474	Training	201	Other/CFS	100
Meet Comp	423	Theft	181		

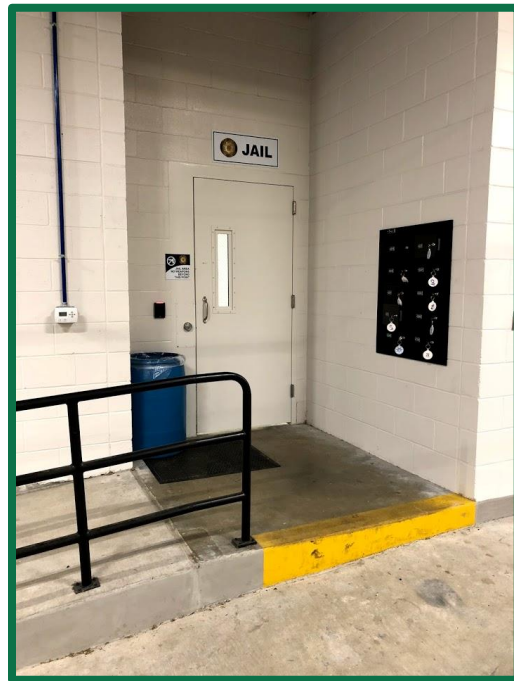
Arrests

The Bellaire City Jail is a short-term holding facility for those arrested for traffic or criminal offenses. Though the jail is a short-term holding facility, individuals may be detained in jail for several days for a variety of reasons. These reasons include delays in posting bond or bail, awaiting transfer to a county jail, or sitting out fines.

Individuals may be arrested for offenses ranging from Class C Misdemeanor Traffic to First Degree Felonies. Most persons arrested for Class B or Class A Misdemeanors or any Felony that meet jail requirements and are not otherwise eligible for bonds are transferred to the Harris County Jail.

Persons arrested for Class C Misdemeanors may either post bond or 'sit out' their fine in the city jail. Sitting out fines describes when an individual will serve time in jail in exchange for a reduction in the cash fine in the form of a per-day 'credit.'

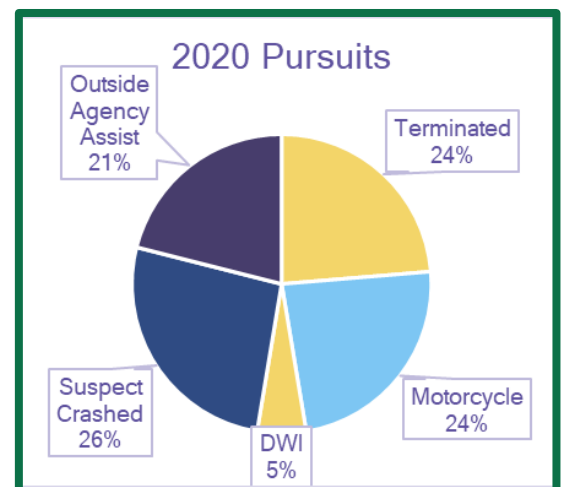
Month	2019	2020
January	88	94
February	78	76
March	76	51
April	79	13
May	97	38
June	82	32
July	77	22
August	77	32
September	69	26
October	82	54
November	73	34
December	70	51
Total	878	472



Arrest numbers declined starting in March 2020 due to restrictions imposed by the department in response to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Officers were only permitted to arrest subjects for serious offenses or when arrest was the only option to resolve a call for service.

Pursuits

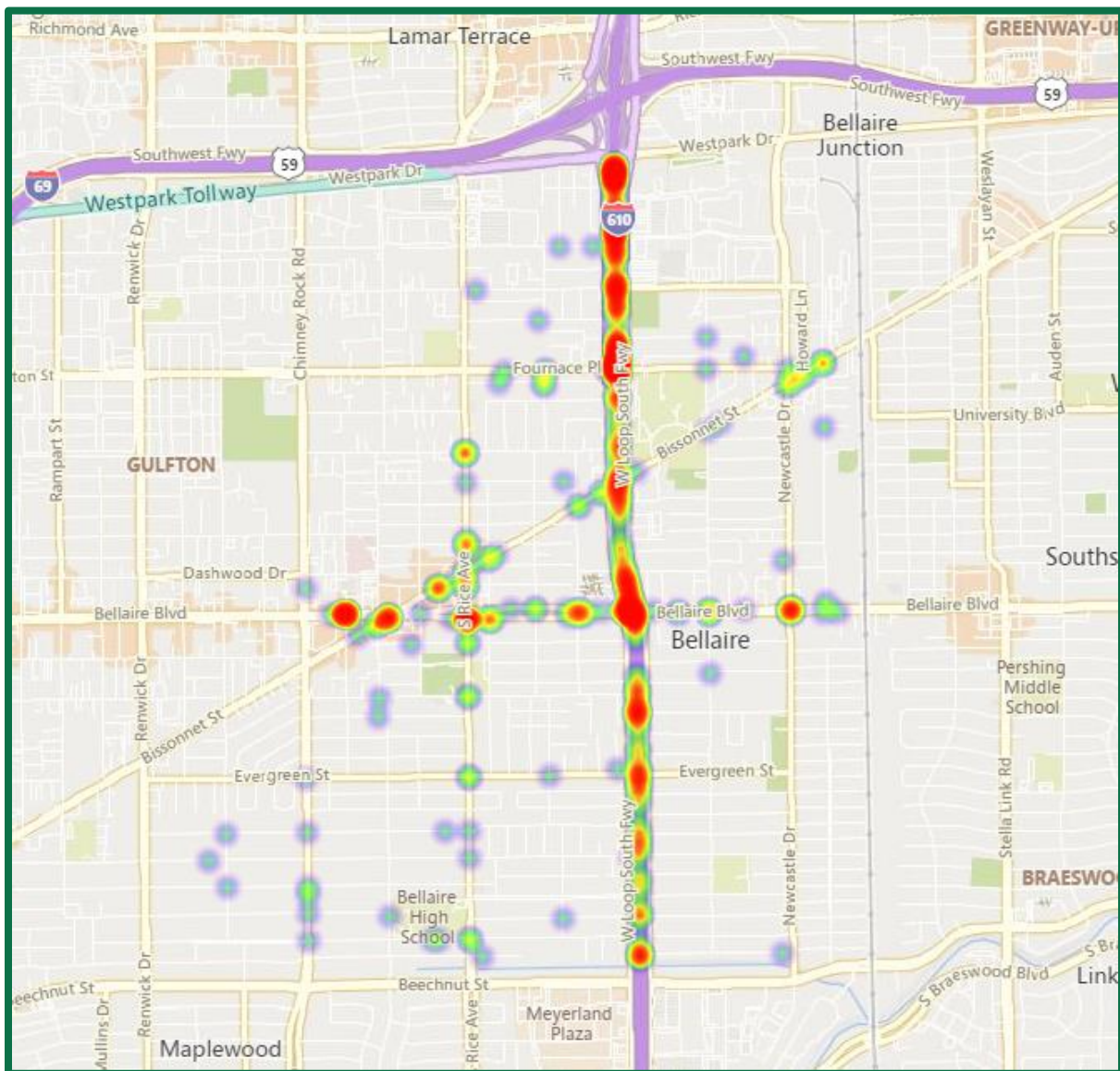
The Department acknowledges its responsibility to pursue and apprehend criminal violators, but it also recognizes the risks associated when apprehension involves vehicular pursuits. It is the Department's goal to accomplish its mission utilizing the safest method(s) possible. The department has established procedures that enable officers to make sound decisions and determine whether the risk created by a pursuit outweighs the necessity of immediate apprehension. In 2020 the department was involved in 27 pursuits.



Crashes

In 2020 there were a total of 483 crashes investigated by law enforcement agencies within the city limits of Bellaire, most of which were handled by the Bellaire Police Department. Those crashes involved 1,043 units and 1,376 persons. This is a decrease of 38.8% compared to the 789 reported in 2019. The reduction may be tied to county-wide stay-at-home orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the heat map shows below, the vast majority of crashes occurred on IH-610.



The second most frequent location of crashes are intersections of major thoroughfares.

Response Times

The Bellaire Police Department is governed by department policy and state law which dictate the manner in which officers may respond to emergency situations. Officers are required to drive in such a manner as to provide optimal police protection while ensuring the reasonable safety of other motorists, pedestrians, and department members alike.

The department specifies three manners, or 'codes,' of response to calls for service. They are:

- Code 3: Continual use of emergency equipment for the duration of the response.
- Code 2: Intermittent or partial use of emergency equipment.
- Code 1: No emergency equipment should be used.

When responding Code 2 or Code 3, officers are permitted to safely disregard traffic laws while operating an emergency vehicle as necessary to accomplish the law enforcement mission. This does not relieve the operator of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons nor does it protect the operator from the consequences of his or her reckless disregard for the safety of others.

The department prides itself on rapid and safe responses to calls for service within the city. Response times below include Bellaire Fire Department response times.



Average Response Times	2019	2020	Percent Change
Code 3	4:27	3:14	-27.3%
Code 2	4:31	4:08	-8.5%
Code 1	6:24	5:56	-7.3%
Average	5:07	4:26	-13.4%

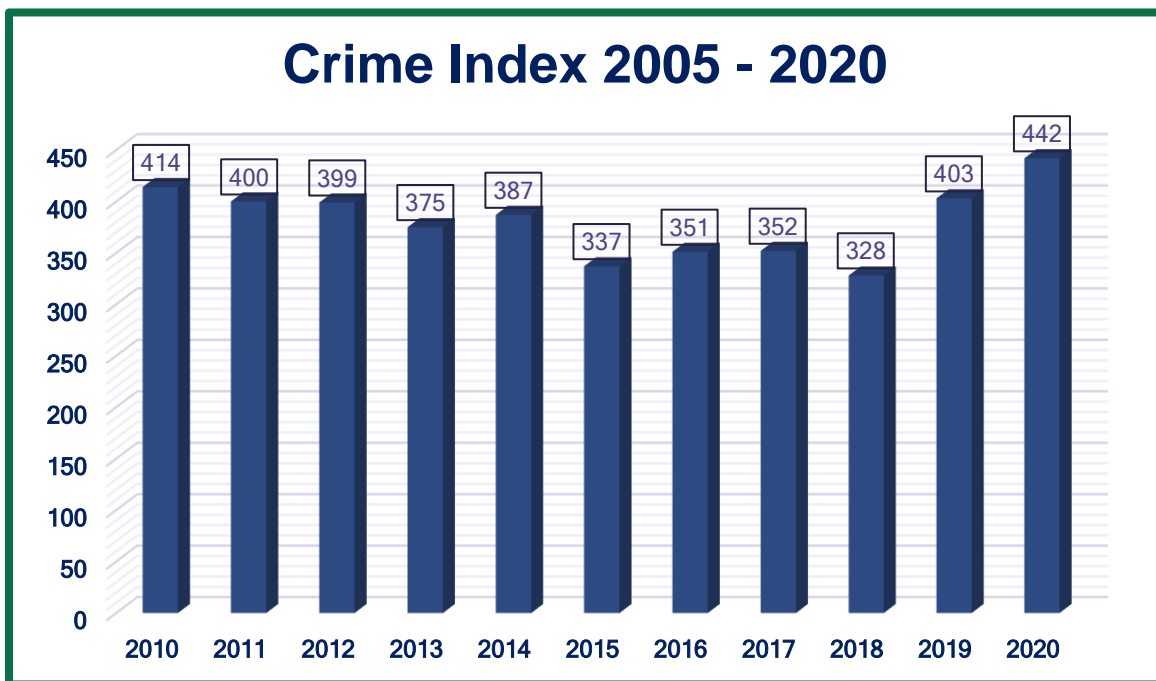
A more accurate reflection of police response time is that of the in-progress crimes of robberies and burglaries.

Police In-Progress Response	2019	2020	Percent Change
Average	1:46	2:09	21.7%

Uniform Crime Reporting

Since 1930, participating local, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies have voluntarily provided the nation with a reliable set of crime statistics through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The FBI, which administers the program, receives crime data from participating law enforcement agencies across the country and periodically releases cumulative crime statistics to the public.

UCR reporting analyzes “index crimes,” or those offenses that are serious and most likely to be reported to law enforcement. Part 1 Offenses included in the report are: homicide, sexual assault, robbery, assault, burglary of a habitation, burglary of a building, theft, and motor vehicle theft. The chart below shows the total Part 1 Offenses since 2010.

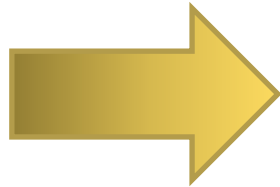


Expanding data to the individual index crimes provides a somewhat clearer picture of crime in Bellaire when compared to data reported the previous year. The following chart shows the percent change in the eight categories of Part 1 Offenses compared to 2019.

Part 1 Offenses	2019	2020	Percent Change
1. CRIMINAL HOMICIDE	1	1	0.0%
2. FORCIBLE RAPE	5	2	-60.0%
3. ROBBERY	11	19	72.7%
4. ASSAULT	45	52	15.6%
5a. BURGLARY - Residence	38	16	-57.9%
5b. BURGLARY - Building	18	32	77.8%
6. LARCENY-THEFT	266	302	13.5%
7. MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	19	18	-5.3%
GRAND TOTAL	403	442	9.7%

An increase in Part 1 Offenses in 2020 indicates one or more of the following: more people are committing crimes; offenders have higher individual crime rates; and/or, more crimes are being reported. Fluctuations based on one or more of these factors during any given time period is expected. Fluctuations may also be due to factors beyond anyone's influence. For example, law enforcement is working to determine how the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted crime during 2020.

National Incident Based Reporting System Conversion



While useful in determining incidents of serious crime within a jurisdiction, UCR reports or "index crime" data do not show a full picture of crime or how 'safe' or 'unsafe' the locality. To address this, the FBI created a new reporting system intended to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement. This new system is the National Incident Based Reporting System, or NIBRS.

NIBRS captures detailed information on each single crime incident. This more detailed reporting of crime can provide more meaningful real-time statistical data that can be used in law enforcement planning and resource deployment.

When used to its full potential, NIBRS helps law enforcement better define the resources it needs to fight crime and how to use those resources efficiently and effectively. NIBRS:

- Provides greater specificity in reporting offenses. NIBRS look at many more offenses than UCR. NIBRS collects data for 52 offenses, plus 10 additional offenses for which only arrests are reported. UCR considered only eight.
- Collects more detailed information, including incident date and time, whether reported offenses were attempted or completed, expanded victim types, relationships of victims to offenders and offenses, demographic details, location data, property descriptions, drug types and quantities, the offender's suspected use of drugs or alcohol, the involvement of gang activity, and whether a computer was used in the commission of the crime.
- Helps give context to specific crime problems such as drug/narcotics and sex offenses, as well as issues like animal cruelty, identity theft, and computer hacking.
- Provides greater analytic flexibility. Through NIBRS, data users can see many more facets of crime, as well as relationships and connections among these facets, than UCR provided.

Calendar year 2020 will be the last year that the Bellaire Police Department reports UCR data.

Effective January 1, 2021 the FBI has transitioned to NIBRS-only data collection and all future reports will be in the more detailed format.



How NIBRS is Superior to UCR Data Collection

SPOTLIGHT

Bellaire Home Burglaries 2020



Attempted Burglary suspect caught on doorbell camera

Home burglars have always followed the same approach when breaking into a home. After selecting a home, they will approach the front door and ring the doorbell or knock. They assume that nobody is home if there is no answer. If somebody answers, they will fabricate an excuse as to why they are at the house and leave. For the most part, home burglars do not want a confrontation.

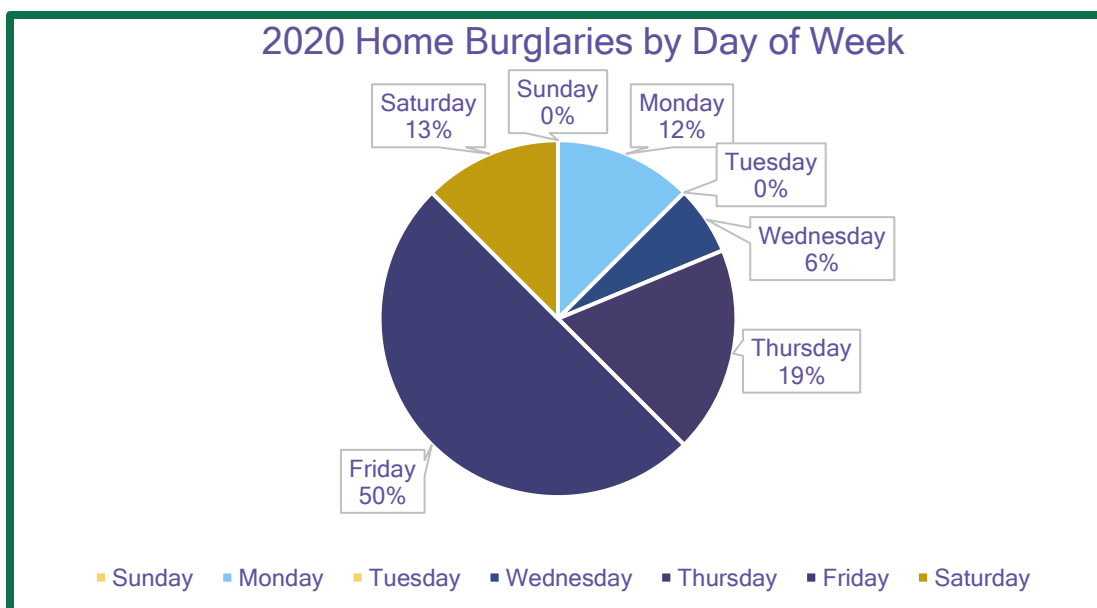
If there is no answer after ringing the doorbell the burglar will try the door to see if it is unlocked. Doors are left unlocked a surprisingly often. During 2020 all entries at the front of the home, except 1,

were due to unlocked doors.

If the door is locked, the burglar will attempt to get to the back of the house where they are less likely to be seen. Gates leading to the back of the home are frequently left unlocked. After getting to the back of the home, the burglar will attempt to force open a door or window open to gain entry.

Upon entering the home, burglars often go to the master bedroom in search of jewelry, small electronics, cash, prescription drugs, and other small high-value items.

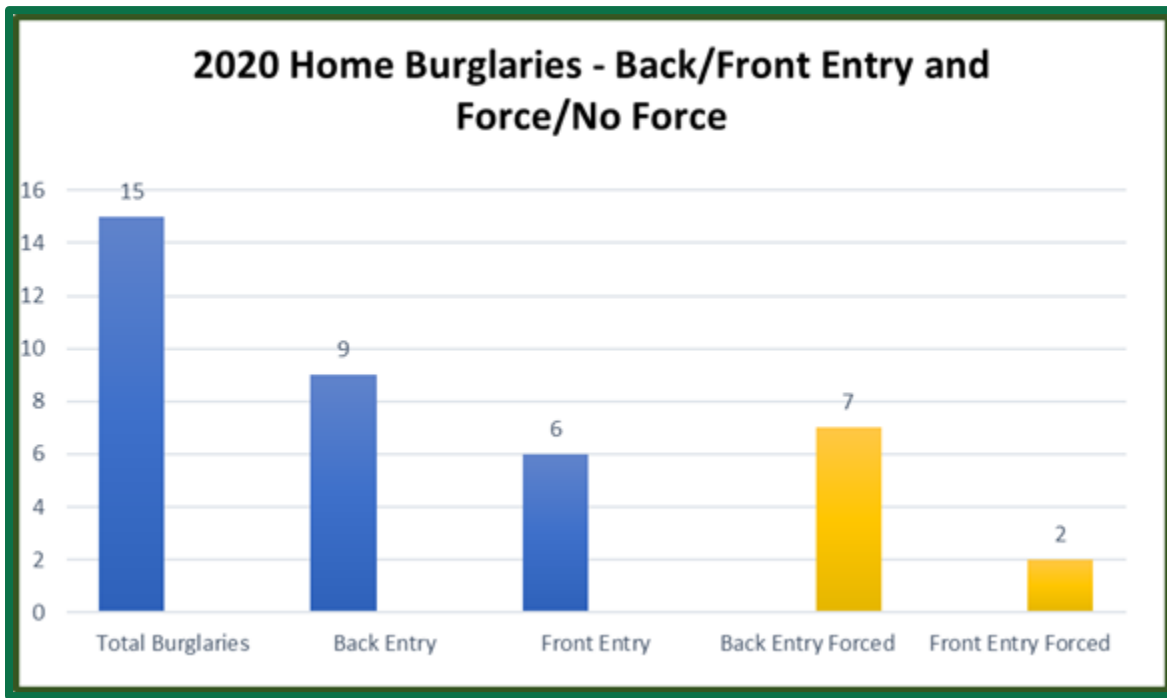
The following chart shows home burglary frequency by day of week.



Friday shows the highest day of the week for reported home burglaries, followed by Thursday and then Saturday. One possible reason is that people are very active at the start of the weekend by leaving home early to travel. On Sunday people are often returning home from short trips and there tends to be more persons at home.

There are generally two points of entry for a home: either the front or rear of the residence. Burglars will then either enter through unlocked doors or force entry through a door or window.

The chart below shows the point of entry and force used.



Force was most often used when breaking into the rear of the home as opposed to breaking into the front of the home. Suspects are less likely to be seen or heard kicking in a back door. Of those homes broken into from the back, only 2 were found that had locked gates.

To reduce the chances of becoming a victim, the Bellaire Police Department recommends:

- 1. Monitor Your Front Porch.**

Security cameras or video doorbells can alert you when someone approaches the front door. Use the two-way communication feature to let subjects know you're watching.

- 2. Lock Your Gate**

Make it as difficult to access your backyard as possible.

- 3. Invest in a Home Alarm**

Alarms that notify you directly or are monitored by a company can alert you when someone forces entry into your home.



False Alarm Reduction

In calendar year 2020 the Bellaire Police Department responded to 1,371 false alarm calls. These were the result of weather, improperly installed or maintained equipment, or accidental triggers. False alarm activations place the safety of citizens truly in need of police response in jeopardy. False alarms divert police from real emergencies and proactive patrol activity.



City of Bellaire Ordinance Section 9.5-2 requires that all persons utilizing a monitored alarm system to obtain a permit for the alarm. Alarm permits can be obtained at the Bellaire Police Department, 5110 Jessamine, Mon-Fri 8 am to 5 pm. Call 713-662-8107 for more information. The fee is \$65 for each type of alarm (residential or commercial).

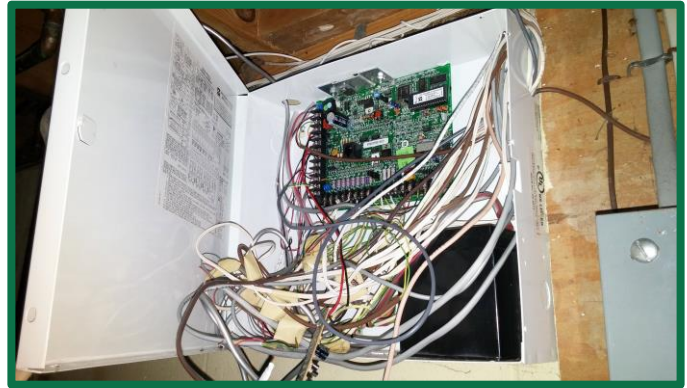
Alarm users should be aware of common causes of false alarms so they may mitigate instances of false alarms. Common causes of false alarms include:

- Using incorrect keypad codes
- Failing to train authorized users including cleaning crews, repairment, and pet sitters
- Weak system batteries
- Failure to secure doors and windows once the alarm is turned on
- Wandering pets
- Businesses failing to notify monitoring company of unscheduled openings and closings
- Not requiring the monitoring company to notify persons on the contact list before calling the police.



Equipment issues may also cause false alarms. Alarm users should be aware of:

- Improper installation of equipment
- Improper charging of batteries
- Faulty equipment, keypads, batteries, panels, detectors.
- Use of unlicensed alarm business installers/monitoring companies and untrained installers



Residents can help the police department by working to reduce false alarms. Things to do include:

- Know how to operate and be familiar with your alarm system
- Make sure that anyone with a key to your home or business knows the alarm code and password
- Secure doors and windows before turning on the alarm. Make sure the doors are closed tightly when you leave your home or business.
- Make sure you and all occupants know your pass code in case the monitoring company calls you because of an accidental activation
- Keep pets, balloons, fans, heaters, etc. away from motion sensor areas
- Know and rehearse the process to cancel an accidental alarm. Anyone with your key should know this process
- Know how much time you have after you have armed your system to leave and disarm your system when you enter
- Make sure your equipment is inspected and maintained by licensed alarm installers. Have your alarm system checked twice a year



Users should know what to do in the event of they accidentally trip the alarm:

- First, don't panic. Carefully enter your disarm code to reset your system.
- Wait for your Alarm Company or central monitoring station to call, give your password or secure identification
- If the alarm has gone off, do not leave your home or business until you have talked with your monitoring station! If they do not call you, have the number posted by your control panel and contact them to cancel the police dispatch.
- You can arrange to have your alarm monitoring station call you or another designated person first before the police are dispatched whenever your alarm is activated.
- If you are aware of a problem with the system, you can call 713-662-8107 to cancel the police dispatch.



Notifications

The City of Bellaire encourages citizens to sign up for community notification via **Notify Me**. This a notification system the City uses to inform subscribers of all City information, everything from emergencies to neighborhood meetings. Subscribers can receive police crime profiles, weekly crime reports, and press releases sent out by the police department.

Residents should also sign up for Prepare Bellaire emergency notifications. Prepare Bellaire alerts residents of emergency and other important community news, such as weather alerts for Bellaire generated by the National Weather Service, emergency and urgent notifications from the City and general City information. You can register up to 10 different notification methods including cell phone, landline, text, and email. You can also choose the different types of notifications you would like to receive.



Notify Me

Visit the City of Bellaire website
and sign up for
Notify Me and Prepare Bellaire.

PrepareBellaire

GET CONNECTED - STAY INFORMED

Crime Victim Specialist

The State of Texas requires all police departments to have a Crime Victim's Liaison or Specialist to assist and work with crime victims. In 2019, the City of Bellaire received a grant from the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime to fund its first full-time Crime Victim Specialist. The three-year grant will enable the department to provide services that had previously been handled by county resources. The department's Crime Victim Specialist is Miranda DiBenedetto.



CVS Miranda DiBenedetto

The goal of the Crime Victim Specialist Program is to assist victims of crime, protect and advocate the rights of victims, provide necessary information, and prevent further victimization. Crime victims who make a police report are subsequently contacted by phone, mail or in person. The Specialist informs victims about police procedures, community resources, and available programs that will assist victims during the aftermath of a crime. The specialist is also available to respond to after-hour emergencies, and to provide assistance.

The Specialist may also contact crime victims to determine their eligibility for financial assistance when they have exhausted their own financial resources. The Crime Victims' Compensation Fund - paid out of court costs generated by criminal convictions - provides for medical bills, counseling, lost wages, funeral expenses, and other crime related expenses without any cost to taxpayers.

Below are notable statistics compiled from the first year of operation under the grant.

Crime	Victims Serviced	Crime	Victims Serviced
Adult Physical Assault	10	Suicide/Attempt	1
Burglary	3	Hit and Run	1
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	3	Mental Health	1
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	4	Indecent Exposure	1
Domestic/Family Violence	16	Burglary of Motor Vehicle	65
DUI/DWI	2	Disorderly Conduct	1
Elder Abuse or Neglect	1	Theft	18
Hate Crime	1	Threats	2
Identity Theft/Fraud	62	Criminal Mischief	3
Robbery	9	Unlawful Disclosure	2
Stalking/Harassment	3		
Violation of Court Order	2	Total:	211

DIVISIONS

Administration

Chief of Police



The police department is led by Chief of Police Byron Holloway. Chief Holloway started his career with the Bellaire Police Department in September 1977 and worked his way through the ranks until his appointment as Chief of Police in 2012. Chief Holloway holds a State of Texas Master Proficiency Certificate, a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science Cum Laude from Midwestern State University, is a graduate of the Management Institute of Texas, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy 195th Session.

Assistant Chief of Police

Assistant Chief Onesimo Lopez began his tenure with the City of Bellaire in January 2019. Chief Lopez came to Bellaire after serving 24 years with the City of Pearland where he gained experience working Patrol, Administration, and in the Criminal Investigations Division. Assistant Chief Lopez holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration and is a graduate of Class #56 of the Bill Blackwood Leadership Command College. Assistant Chief Lopez graduated from Session #279 of the FBI National Academy in March 2020.



Support Services



Lt. Jeff Cotton has served in Law Enforcement since 1996, joining the Bellaire Police Department in 1998. He holds a Master Peace Officer License and is certified as a Mental Health Officer, Special Investigator, SRT operator, Crime Prevention Inspector, and Intoxilyzer Operator. Lt. Cotton has served The Bellaire Police Department as a Bailiff, Patrol Officer, Community Resource Officer, Field Training Officer, Corporal, Sergeant, Sergeant over the Office of Professional Development, SRT Commander, and Patrol Lieutenant.

Patrol

Lt. Anthony Hefferin commands the Patrol Division which is the largest division in the department. Lt. Hefferin served in the United States Navy from 1993 to 1998 and was discharged at the rank of E-4 / Third Class Petty Officer. Lt. Hefferin started serving with the Bellaire Police Department in 2004 and has served the City of Bellaire in multiple capacities including Patrol Officer, Corporal, Sergeant, Special Response Team Operator, and Assistant Team leader.



Patrol

The Patrol Division encompasses the uniformed services divisions of the department. Patrol operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The officers in this division are generally the first to respond to calls for service. Duties performed by this division include:

- Enforcement of state and municipal laws
- Traffic enforcement
- Preliminary criminal investigations
- Accident investigations
- Assisting lost or stranded motorists

The Patrol Division historically consisted of three shifts:

- Days 6 AM to 2 PM
- Evenings 2 PM to 10 PM
- Nights 10 PM to 6 AM



Due to a manpower shortage caused by retirements and resignations and the difficulty encountered in testing and selecting new officers amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Patrol Division switched to 12-hour shifts. Patrol was divided into four squads with alternating days off on a two-week, 84-hour schedule. The schedule allows all officers to enjoy every other weekend off.

12-hour Schedule Format

Days	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week 1	A	B	B	A	A	B	B
Week 2	B	A	A	B	B	A	A
Nights							
Week 1	C	D	D	C	C	D	D
Week 2	D	C	C	D	D	C	C

Under the 12-hour format, each Patrol squad is staffed by 1 Police Sergeant, 1 Police Corporal, and 3 Patrol Officers. While the department strives to have 5 officers on duty at any given time, this is not always possible. Due to time off, training, or sick leave a squad may have reduced numbers but will always have at least four officers (1 supervisor and 3 officers) working.

Patrol Supervisors

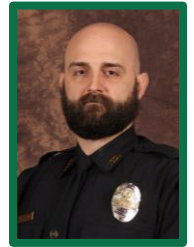
Supervisors play a critical role in the development and implementation of department initiatives. Through their leadership of subordinates, they ensure that officers serving the community and fulfilling their duties reflect the highest ideals of the Bellaire Police Department.

Patrol Squad A



Sgt. Kerr

Sergeant Daniel Kerr came to the Bellaire PD in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Administration of Justice from Southern Illinois University. Sgt. Kerr currently holds a Master Peace Officer License and is an Advanced Accident Investigator and Crash Reconstructionist.



Cpl. O'Sullivan

Corporal Shane O'Sullivan started his career in law enforcement as an officer in Missouri and moved to Texas in 2014 to start his career serving with the Bellaire Police Department. Cpl. O'Sullivan is a Firearms Instructor and currently holds a Master Peace Officer Certificate.

Patrol Squad B



Sgt. Hollie

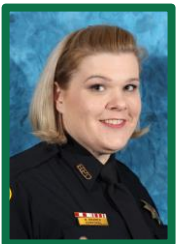
Sergeant Darrel Hollie began his career with the Bellaire Police Department in July 2004. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Prairie View A&M University. Sgt. Hollie holds a Master Peace Officer Certification through TCOLE.



Cpl. Baylis

Corporal James Baylis served with the United States Air Force and United States Navy with a focus on anti-terrorism and force protection. Corporal Baylis began his law enforcement career in 2013 with the Precinct 5 Harris County Constables before joining the Bellaire Police Department in 2019.

Patrol Squad C



Sgt. Kramer

Sergeant Karen Kramer holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University. Sgt. Kramer began her tenure with the Bellaire Police Department in 2009 and holds a Master Peace Officer Certificate, Intermediate Accident Investigator Certification, and is a FBI LEEDA Trilogy recipient.

Patrol Squad D



Cpl. Andre Porter

Corporal Andre Porter started his career in public service by serving 9 years with the United States Marine Corps. Corporal Porter joined the Bellaire Police Department in May 2005. Cpl. Porter has served in numerous assignments to include a Special Response Team member, Field Training Officer, Advanced Accident Investigator, and Physical Fitness Coordinator, among others.

Animal Control

Included in the Patrol Division is the Animal Control Officer. The city's Animal Control Officer, Richard Perez, is responsible for protecting citizens from dangerous conditions and nuisances created by uncontrolled or diseased animals. Protection of citizens is accomplished through the enforcement of various state statutes and city ordinances.

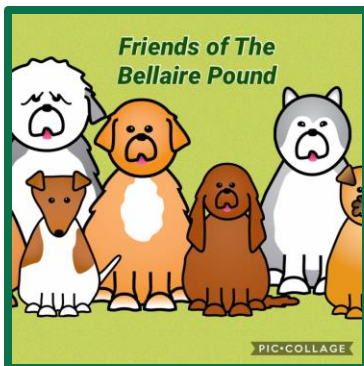
Duties of the Animal Control Officer include responding to:

- Animal Bites
- Injured Animals
- Vicious Animals

The Animal Control Officer is also responsible for maintaining the Bellaire Pound. Though not a full-service animal shelter, the Bellaire Pound is a temporary holding facility where stray, lost, or abandoned pets, mostly dogs, are housed.



ACO Richard Perez



The work of adopting out and caring for animals is assisted by a volunteer citizen group, Friends of the Bellaire Pound. This group assists with securing donations of needed items such as blankets, pads, heaters, and food. Friends of the Bellaire Pound also collect funds to pay for some items not secured through donations.



Support Services

The Support Services Division provides specialized policing services to citizens outside the scope of the Patrol Division. The Support Service Division includes the Criminal Investigations Division, Crime Victim Specialist, and Court Security.

Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is responsible for follow-up investigations initiated by the Patrol Division. These investigations typically require advance investigative skills or in-depth follow-up before charges can be filed or a case can be closed. This division will also respond to preliminary investigations to assist the Patrol Division in completing the preliminary investigation. CID is staffed with one Detective Sergeant, 3 detectives, and one rotating detective.



Citizen and Detective Gil Macedo

Crime Victim Specialist



CVS Miranda DiBenedetto

The goal of the Crime Victim Specialist program is to provide services, protect, and advocate for victims of crime and family members of victims to assist in preventing further victimization and secondary trauma. See the Spotlight on page 22 for more information.

Court Division

The Court Division provides security in the form of Bailiffs during scheduled court dates and other times when extra security for the court or court personnel is needed. Court bailiffs are part-time sworn police officers.



Bailiff Joe Marroquin

Warrant Division

The Warrant Officer supports Bellaire Municipal Court by serving and clearing outstanding Class C misdemeanor warrants. The duties include ensuring that warrants are entered into the state database when active, removing warrants after they are served, and notifying individuals of outstanding warrants. In calendar year 2020 the Warrant Division cleared 935 warrants with a face value of \$273,161.

Information Technology

The Information Technology Division of the police department is responsible for providing professional technical service, support and maintenance to city and department staff members for all computer-based operations and the department's intra- and internet network. Technology such as servers, routers, and video cameras vital to a modern police agency are installed and maintained by the IT Division.

In addition to responsibility for the information technology function of the department, this division also includes Communications and Records.

Communications Division



The Communications Division is a Public Safety Dispatch facility that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Professionally trained Communications Specialists process calls received from the public and with the aid of computerized dispatch technology, dispatch Police, Fire and/or EMS units as needed. In 2020 Communications Officers handled 30,007 calls for service. The Communications Division is responsible for maintaining the department's radio, mobile data, and telephone equipment.

Records Division

The Records Division is charged with records management for the Police Department. Division responsibilities include the processing of all offense and incident reports, accident reports, arrest and prosecution reports generated by the Police Department. The Records Division also prepares statistical reports such as the Uniform Crime Report for the FBI and Departmental Monthly and Annual reports for local use.



In 2020 the Records Division processed 824 offense reports, 437 crash reports, 523 arrest packets, and 134 open records requests.

PROGRAMS

Drones



The Bellaire Police Department Drone Program was started in 2019 with a grant from the Bellaire Police and Fire Foundation. The grant enabled the department to purchase drones to assist the department with search and rescue operations as well as to provide surveillance support for police operations.

The drones are outfitted with optical 30x zoom cameras and a thermal imager. Transmitter range is approximately three miles.

The drones can travel up to 50 miles per hour and have a flight time of up to 40 minutes.

In 2020 drones were deployed to assist with locating a suspect fleeing after a chase in a stolen car in West University and were also used to track down a murder suspect fleeing from the Houston Police Department in North Houston.



Suspect located on roof

Automatic License Plate Reader



In mid-2020 the Bellaire Police Department again approached the Bellaire Police and Fire Foundation to request a grant for an Automatic License Plate Reader system in Bellaire. The program sought to install stationary pole-mounted license plate reader cameras in strategic locations across the city. The cameras would capture and store digital images of license plates and use character recognition to identify license plate data.

The Bellaire Police and Fire Foundation generously donated funds for a pilot ALPR program in Bellaire. In mid-December 2020 the first cameras were deployed and by December 31, 2020 there were 117,194 plates read. The data collected is used to further police investigations and identify suspect vehicles wanted in connection with criminal incidents. The ALPR is a one-year pilot program at the end of which it will be determined if the program is suspended or expanded.

Management Study

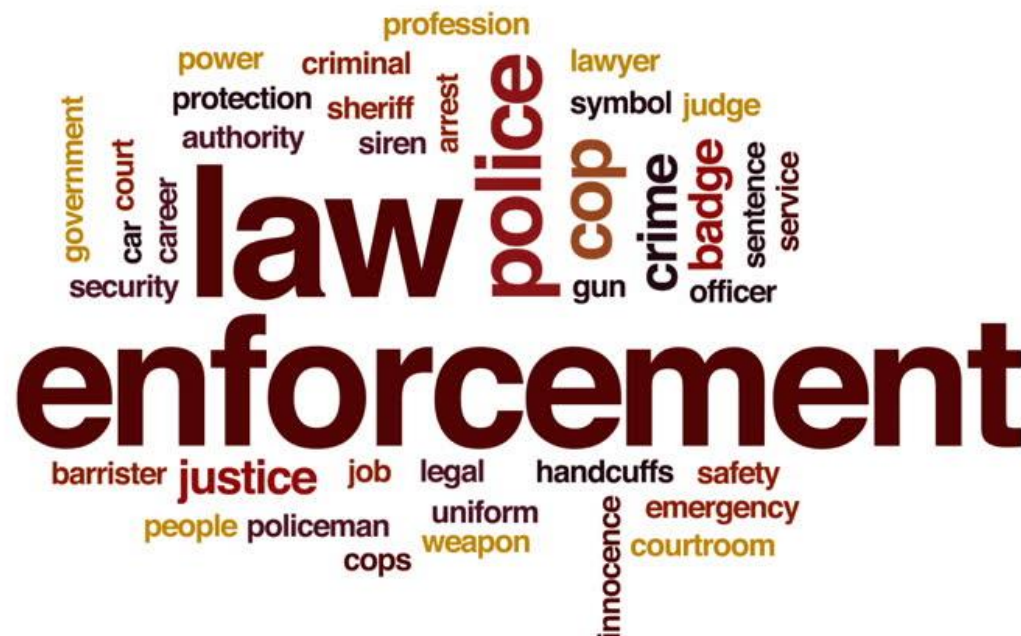
In April 2020 the department initiated discussions to conduct a management study of the Bellaire Police Department. This study was intended to accomplish three goals:

1. Plan for change in leadership in 2021;
2. Identify potential improvements in department efficiency and service delivery; and,
3. Spur involvement with the national discussion on police reform.

In August 2020 the Bellaire Police Department approached Council regarding the project and received approval to conduct the study. The study, to be conducted by Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI), will be a comprehensive review of the agency's operations and management. Included in the study will be an assessment of staffing, policies, crime control, citizen engagement, and resource management.



The in October 2020 the department had the project kick-off meeting with ESCI. The department outlined project priorities and the service provider arranged for the submission of department staffing, statistics, and other operational data. Once the data transfer is complete, ESCI will begin the initial data analysis and schedule a site visit. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by June 2021.



POLICE SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENTS

Without a doubt 2020 brought change to all of us. We were forced to take a hard look at long-held beliefs and ways of doing things. Not only the Bellaire Police Department but policing in general needed to adapt to meet the challenges of policing during a pandemic while also taking part in a conversation on police reform.

In April 2020, Chief Holloway initiated a project to identify a consulting agency that could conduct a top- to-bottom evaluation of department operations. This department-wide study would focus on issues such as staffing allocation, assets and vehicles, and policies and procedures. As national police/community tensions began to rise in mid-2020, the department also saw a need to conduct an immediate community-based review of department practices as related to police/citizen interactions.



Assistant Chief Lopez

In order to facilitate this review, a Citizen Advisory Committee led by Assistant Chief Lopez was created and comprised both Bellaire residents and area stakeholders. This committee had its first meeting on August 5, 2020. The goals of the committee were: To share ideas and suggestions in a manner that is constructive and not destructive; To listen to improve the culture and processes at the department for the benefit of residents and visitors; To identify processes the department did right but also identify those processes that need improvement; and, To provide a venue for members to make actionable recommendations on changes needed from the citizen point of view.

Monthly meetings coordinated by Assistant Chief Lopez were held on specific areas of focus with an eye towards stated goals. The resulting recommendations will be reported in the ESCI management study and will also be highlighted in the department's 2021-2026 Service Plan.

While 2020 started a conversation, it has not ended. The Bellaire Police Department is committed to partnering with the community to ensure that we employ best practices in policing while providing the professional services the community needs and deserves.

Onesimo Lopez
Assistant Chief of Police

MILESTONES

Promotions

With the retirement of Lieutenant Greg Bartlett, on June 12, 2020 Sergeant Anthony Hefferin was promoted to Lieutenant and Corporal Douglas Clawson was promoted to Sergeant.

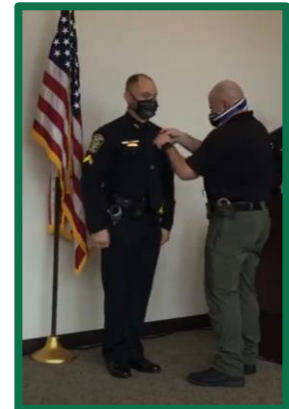


L-R, Chief Holloway, Lt. Hefferin, Sgt. Clawson, Assistant Chief Lopez



L-R, Sgt. Kramer, Kenneth Kramer, Chief Holloway

On June 26, 2020 Corporal Karen Kramer was promoted to Sergeant to fill a supervision vacancy on Patrol.



L-R, Cpl. Baylis, Lt. Hefferin

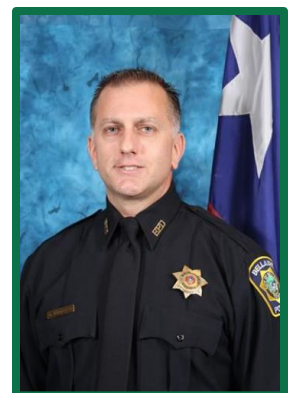
On September 4, 2020 Officer James Baylis was promoted to Corporal.

Retirements

Detective Mike Lacy

1994 - 2019

On December 31, 2019 Detective Mike Lacy retired after 25 years of service to the City of Bellaire. Detective Lacy held the ranks of Patrol Officer, Corporal, and Sergeant prior to becoming a detective. Detective Lacy was the recipient of the 2014 Officer of the Year award.

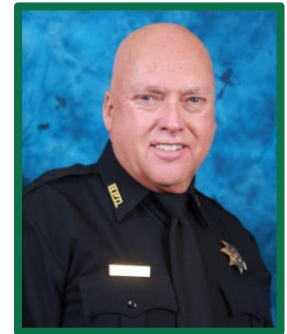


Lt. Greg Bartlett***1985 - 2020***

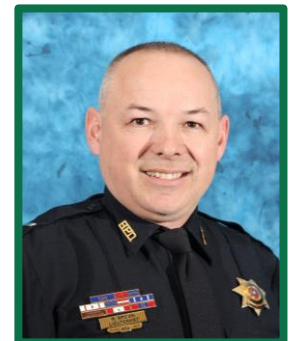
On May 31, 2020 Lieutenant Greg Bartlett retired after serving the City of Bellaire for 34 years. Lt. Bartlett had previously served with the Harris County Precinct 2 Constable's Office. Lt. Bartlett's final assignment with Bellaire PD was as the Support Services Commander.

**Officer Mike Connally*****1977 - 2020***

On October 31, 2020 Officer Mike Connally retired after 43 years of service with Bellaire Police Department. Officer Connally had a total of 48 years protecting the public including time with Midland Police Department and Harris County Sheriff's Office. Officer Connally served as the department's Warrant Officer for the duration of his tenure.

**Lt. Russell Brown*****1994 - 2020***

On December 18, 2020 Lieutenant Russell Brown retired after serving the Bellaire Police Department for almost 27 years. Lt. Brown's final assignment was as the Manager - Information Technology for the police department. Lt. Brown commanded the Communications and Records Divisions.

**Records Technician Kathy Holbrook*****2004 - 2020***

On December 31, 2020 Records Technician Kathy Holbrook retired after 16 years with the department. Ms. Holbrook was responsible for the security and management of the thousands of confidential documents that pass through the Records Division every year. Ms. Holbrook also served as the Public Information Act compliance officer, a job she took very seriously. Ms. Holbrook previously served with the Houston Police Department.



IN MEMORIAM

According to statistics gathered by the Officer Down Memorial Page, there were a total of 314 law enforcement fatalities in the United States in 2020. This number includes 196 officers that died as a result of COVID-19. This number is up 132% from 2019 when 135 officers lost their lives.

In its first century, the Bellaire Police Department has lost two officers in the line of duty. The Bellaire Police Department honors their memory and ultimate sacrifice in service to the Bellaire Community.



Jimmie DeVeril Norman

End of Watch
December 24, 2012

Corporal Jimmie Norman was shot and killed on Christmas Eve 2012 at the end of a vehicle pursuit of a robbery suspect. Corporal Norman was able to stop the suspect and was attempting to place the suspect under arrest. A struggle ensued at which time the suspect drew a concealed handgun and shot Corporal Norman once, killing him instantly.

Corporal Norman served the Bellaire Community for 26 years. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant.

Jimmie Norman was 53 years old and is survived by his wife, son, and daughter.



Marco Antonio Zarate

End of Watch
July 12, 2016

Motorcycle Officer Marco Zarate was killed on July 12, 2016 during the pursuit of two robbery suspects. Officer Zarate had located the robbery suspects and was holding them at gunpoint while waiting for back-up officers. Before other officers could arrive, the suspects fled in their vehicle. Officer Zarate was severely injured in a crash while pursuing the suspects and died of his injuries while on route to the hospital.

Officer Zarate was a United States Marine Corps veteran and had served the Bellaire Community for seven years.

Marco Zarate was 52 years old and is survived by his wife and three daughters.

Bellaire Police Department: Year in Review 2020

Onesimo Lopez
Assistant Chief of Police

February 2021

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